Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 5, wherein step (1) further comprises providing a third group of steering mechanism types at the common, first manufacturing facility.

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method of ~~Claim 2~~ Claim 5, wherein step (3) further comprises selecting a desired steering mechanism from the third group.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method of ~~Claim 3~~ Claim 5, wherein step (4) further comprises connecting the steering mechanism with the engine and transmission.

Claim 5 (currently amended): ~~The method of Claim 1,~~ A method of manufacturing an implement, comprising:

(1) providing a first group of engine types and a second group of transmission types at a common, first manufacturing facility;

(2) selecting a desired module configuration;

(3) selecting a desired engine from the first group and a desired transmission from the second group;

(4) connecting the selected engine and transmission together in accordance with the desired module configuration to provide a base of the implement;

(5) transporting the base of the implement to a second facility;

(6) providing a working device at the second facility; and

(7) connecting the working device to the base of the implement at the second facility,

wherein the first group includes vertical shaft engines and horizontal shaft engines.

Claim 11 (currently amended): ~~The method of Claim 1,~~ A method of manufacturing an implement, comprising:

(1) providing a first group of engine types and a second group of transmission types at a common, first manufacturing facility;

(2) selecting a desired module configuration;

(3) selecting a desired engine from the first group and a desired transmission from the second group;

(4) connecting the selected engine and transmission together in accordance with the desired module configuration to provide a base of the implement;

(5) transporting the base of the implement to a second facility;

(6) providing a working device at the second facility; and

(7) connecting the working device to the base of the implement at the second facility, wherein the second group includes hydrostatic transaxles, manual shift transaxles, and friction drive transaxles.

Claim 12 (currently amended): ~~The method of Claim 2,~~ A method of manufacturing an implement, comprising:

(1) providing a first group of engine types and a second group of transmission types at a common, first manufacturing facility;

(2) selecting a desired module configuration;

(3) selecting a desired engine from the first group and a desired transmission from the second group;

(4) connecting the selected engine and transmission together in accordance with the desired module configuration to provide a base of the implement;

(5) transporting the base of the implement to a second facility;

(6) providing a working device at the second facility; and

(7) connecting the working device to the base of the implement at the second facility, wherein step (1) further comprises providing a third group of steering mechanism types at the common, first manufacturing facility and wherein the third group includes a spring clutch and trigger controlled steering mechanism and a bi-directional clutch and intuitive steering mechanism.

Claim 13 (original): ~~The method of Claim 1,~~ A method of manufacturing an implement, comprising:

(1) providing a first group of engine types and a second group of transmission types at a common, first manufacturing facility;

(2) selecting a desired module configuration;

(3) selecting a desired engine from the first group and a desired transmission from the second group;

(4) connecting the selected engine and transmission together in accordance with the desired module configuration to provide a base of the implement;

(5) transporting the base of the implement to a second facility;

(6) providing a working device at the second facility; and

(7) connecting the working device to the base of the implement at the second facility, further comprising selecting a working device from the group consisting of an auger assembly, a cultivating blade assembly, and a mower blade assembly.

Claim 14 (currently amended): ~~The method of Claim 1,~~ A method of manufacturing an implement, comprising:

(1) providing a first group of engine types and a second group of transmission types at a common, first manufacturing facility;

(2) selecting a desired module configuration;

(3) selecting a desired engine from the first group and a desired transmission from the second group;

(4) connecting the selected engine and transmission together in accordance with the desired module configuration to provide a base of the implement;

(5) transporting the base of the implement to a second facility;

(6) providing a working device at the second facility; and

(7) connecting the working device to the base of the implement at the second facility, further comprising, after step (7):

providing a handle at the second facility; and

attaching the handle to the base of the implement at the second manufacturing facility.

Claim 10 (currently amended): The method of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 5, further comprising, after step (4):

providing at least two wheels at the first manufacturing facility; and

attaching the wheels to the transmission at the first manufacturing facility.

Claim 11 (currently amended): The method of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 5, further comprising, after step (4):

providing a drive linkage at the first manufacturing facility; and

attaching the drive linkage at the first manufacturing facility to the base of the implement and selected parts to provide a driving connection therebetween.

Claim 12 (currently amended): The method of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 5, wherein, after step (7), a substantially completed implement is produced, and further comprising:

packaging the substantially completed implement; and

transporting the substantially completed implement from the second manufacturing facility to one of a wholesaler, a retailer, and a customer.

Claim 13 (currently amended): The method of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 5, wherein step (6) further includes providing a drive linkage with the working device.

Claim 14 (original): The method of Claim 13, wherein step (7) includes connecting the drive linkage of the working device to the working device and the base of the implement.

Claim 15 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (currently amended): ~~The method of Claim 15,~~ A method of manufacturing an implement, comprising:

(1) providing a first group of engine types, a second group of transmission types, and a third group of steering mechanism types at a common, first manufacturing facility;

(2) selecting a desired module configuration;

(3) selecting a desired engine from the first group, a desired transmission from the second group, and a desired steering mechanism from the third group;

(4) connecting the selected engine, transmission, and steering mechanism together in accordance with the desired module configuration to provide a base of the implement;

(5) transporting the base of the implement to a second facility;

(6) providing a working device at the second facility; and

(7) connecting the working device to the base of the implement at the second facility, wherein the first group includes vertical shaft engines and horizontal shaft engines.

Claim 16 (currently amended): ~~The method of Claim 15,~~ A method of manufacturing an implement, comprising:

(1) providing a first group of engine types, a second group of transmission types, and a third group of steering mechanism types at a common, first manufacturing facility;

(2) selecting a desired module configuration;

(3) selecting a desired engine from the first group, a desired transmission from the second group, and a desired steering mechanism from the third group;

(4) connecting the selected engine, transmission, and steering mechanism together in accordance with the desired module configuration to provide a base of the implement;

(5) transporting the base of the implement to a second facility;

(6) providing a working device at the second facility; and

(7) connecting the working device to the base of the implement at the second facility, wherein the second group includes hydrostatic transaxles, manual shift transaxles, and friction drive transaxles.

Claim 22 (currently amended): ~~The method of Claim 15,~~ A method of manufacturing an implement, comprising:

(1) providing a first group of engine types, a second group of transmission types, and a third group of steering mechanism types at a common, first manufacturing facility;

(2) selecting a desired module configuration;

(3) selecting a desired engine from the first group, a desired transmission from the second group, and a desired steering mechanism from the third group;

(4) connecting the selected engine, transmission, and steering mechanism together in accordance with the desired module configuration to provide a base of the implement;

(5) transporting the base of the implement to a second facility;

(6) providing a working device at the second facility; and

(7) connecting the working device to the base of the implement at the second facility, wherein the third group includes a spring clutch and trigger controlled steering mechanism and a bi-directional clutch and intuitive steering mechanism.

Claim 23 (currently amended): ~~The method of Claim 15,~~ A method of manufacturing an implement, comprising:

(1) providing a first group of engine types, a second group of transmission types, and a third group of steering mechanism types at a common, first manufacturing facility;

(2) selecting a desired module configuration;

(3) selecting a desired engine from the first group, a desired transmission from the second group, and a desired steering mechanism from the third group;

(4) connecting the selected engine, transmission, and steering mechanism together in accordance with the desired module configuration to provide a base of the implement;

(5) transporting the base of the implement to a second facility;

(6) providing a working device at the second facility; and

(7) connecting the working device to the base of the implement at the second facility, further comprising selecting a working device from the group consisting of an auger assembly, a cultivating blade assembly, and a mower blade assembly.

Claim 24 (currently amended): ~~The method of Claim 15,~~ A method of manufacturing an implement, comprising:

(1) providing a first group of engine types, a second group of transmission types, and a third group of steering mechanism types at a common, first manufacturing facility;

(2) selecting a desired module configuration;

(3) selecting a desired engine from the first group, a desired transmission from the second group, and a desired steering mechanism from the third group;

(4) connecting the selected engine, transmission, and steering mechanism together in accordance with the desired module configuration to provide a base of the implement;

(5) transporting the base of the implement to a second facility;

(6) providing a working device at the second facility; and

(7) connecting the working device to the base of the implement at the second facility, further comprising, after step (7):

providing a handle at the second manufacturing facility; and

attaching the handle to the base of the implement at the second manufacturing facility.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The method of ~~Claim 15~~ Claim 16, further comprising, after step (4):

providing at least two wheels at the first manufacturing facility; and

attaching the wheels to the transmission at the first manufacturing facility.

Claim 18 (currently amended): The method of ~~Claim 15~~ Claim 16, further comprising, after step (4):

providing a drive linkage at the first manufacturing facility; and

attaching the drive linkage at the first manufacturing facility to the base of the implement and selected parts to provide a driving connection therebetween.

Claim 19 (currently amended): The method of ~~Claim 15~~ Claim 16, wherein, after step (7), a substantially completed implement is produced, and further comprising:

packaging the substantially completed implement; and

transporting the substantially completed implement from the second manufacturing facility to one of a wholesaler, a retailer, and a customer.

Claim 20 (currently amended): The method of ~~Claim 15~~ Claim 16, wherein step (6) further includes providing a drive linkage with the working device.

Claim 21 (original): The method of Claim 24, wherein step (7) includes connecting the drive linkage of the working device to the working device and the base of the implement.

Claim 10 (currently amended): A method of ~~Claim 1~~ Claim 5, wherein the second facility is remote from the first facility.